The *Cornus florida*, or flowering Dogwood, is the largest and most splendid of its genus, and is one of the chief ornaments of our forests. As a tree it is rather below the middle stature, not usually reaching the height of more than twenty or thirty feet. It is however among the most conspicuous objects in the forests, in the months of April, May and June, according to its latitude, being then covered with a profusion of its large and elegant flowers. In Massachusetts, especially about Boston, it is not a common tree, only scattered individuals appearing here and there in the woods. In the Middle States it is extremely common, especially in moist woods. Michaux informs us, that in the Carolinas, Georgia and the Floridas it is found only on the borders of swamps, and never in the pine barrens, where the soil is too dry and sandy to sustain its vegetation. It is also not very common in the most fertile parts of the Western States, being chiefly found where the soil is of secondary quality.*

* Mr. William Bartram, in his travels in Georgia and Florida, gives the following account of the appearance of this tree near the banks of the Alabama river. "We now entered a very remarkable grove of Dogwood trees, *(Cornus florida,)* which continued nine or ten miles unalterable, except here and there a towering *Magnolia grandiflora*. The land on which they stand is an exact level; the surface a shallow, loose, black mould, on a stratum of stiff, yellowish clay. These trees were about twelve feet high, spreading horizontally, their limbs, meeting and interlocking with each other, formed one vast, shady, cool grove, so dense and humid as to exclude the sun-beams, and prevent the intrusion of almost every other vegetable, affording us a most desirable shelter from the fervid sun-beams at noon day. This admirable grove has by way of eminence acquired the name of Dog woods.

During a progress of near seventy miles through this high forest, there constantly presented to view, on one hand or the other, spacious groves of this fine flowering tree, which must in the spring season, when covered with blossoms, present a most pleasing spectacle, when at the same time a variety of other sweet shrubs display their beauty; as the Halesia, Stewartia, Æsculus, Azalea, &c. entangled with garlands of Bignonia, Glycine, Lonicera, &c. &c. at the same time the superb Magnolia grandiflora standing in front of the dark groves, towering far above the common level." *Travels*, p. 399.

The genus *Cornus* is characterized by the following marks. *Petals four, superior; involucrum of four leaves, or wanting; drupe with a two-celled nut.* The species *florida* is *arboreous, with its flowers in heads surrounded by an involucrum of obovate leaves with recurved points.*

Class *Tetandria*, order *Monogynia*, natural order *Stellatæ*, Lin. *Caprifolia*. Juss.

The Cornus florida is of slow growth, and possesses a very compact wood, covered with a rough, broken bark. The branches are smooth, covered with a reddish bark, marked with rings at the place of the former leaves. The leaves, which are small at the flowering time, are opposite, petioled, oval, acute, entire, nearly smooth, paler be-

JACOB BIGELOW *American Medical Botany* BOSTON, 1817-1820 CARY GRAPHIC ARTS COLLECTION, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Octavo